

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02  
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R 282100Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9819  
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 949

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: PFOR, DR, HA  
SUBJ: HAITIAN-DOMINICAN RELATIONS: ACCOUNT OF A US CITIZEN

1. AN ELDERLY GENTLEMAN, IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT IN MIAMI AND HONORARY CONSUL OF HAITI, ALEX NEUBURGER, CAME TO THE EMBASSY TODAY, AND RECOUNTED THE FOLLOWING STORY TO THE DCM:

2. HE WAS AN OLD FRIEND OF THE DUVALIER FAMILY, NEUBURGER SAID. IN A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER LAST SEPTEMBER, THE PRESIDENT MENTIONED HIS INTEREST IN PROMOTING CLOSER HAITIAN-DOMINICAN TIES AND HIS PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH DOMINICAN PRESIDENT BALAGUER, AND HE HAD ASKED NEUBURGER, SINCE HE HAD FRIENDS HERE, WHETHER HE COULD BE HELPFUL TO THAT END.

3. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, NEUBURGER WAS IN SANTO DOMINGO IN CONNECTION WITH A CASE HE WAS HANDLING FOR A LAW FIRM (WALTERS AND COMPANY) FOR WHICH HE WORKS. WHILE HERE, HE MENTIONED DUVALIER'S INTEREST TO SALOMON SANZ, A LOCAL, WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN WHO IS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF CHIEF OF POLICE NEIT NIVAR. SANZ TOLD NIVAR AND NIVAR CONVEYED DUVALIER'S INTEREST TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER, WHO INDICATED RECEPTIVITY TO A CLOSER PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH  
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DUVALIER. NEUBURGER PASSED THIS TO DUVALIER, WHO THEN INVITED NIVAR TO PORT-AU-PRINCE FOR A DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF COMMON HAITIAN/DOMINICAN INTEREST.

4. BALAGUER SENT WITH NIVAR FOR THE VISIT GENERAL (JORGE) MERINO, COMMANDER OF THE FIRST BRIGADE, AND BRIG GENERAL CHECO (NOW CHIEF OF FORESTRY). (NEUBURGER PROFESSED TO BE

UNAWARE OF WHY THESE TWO MILITARY HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO ACCOMPANY NIVAR.) THE THREE ARRIVED IN PORT-AU-PRINCE ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, WHEN THEY HAD A MEETING WITH DUVALIER. NEUBURGER SAID HE WAS INITALLY PRESENT AT THE MEETING BUT LEFT SHORTLY AFTER IT BEGAN. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE MAIN POLITICAL SUBJECT DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING WAS CUBA, NOTABLY THE ENTRY INTO HAITI OF HAITIANS FROM CUBA AND THE DANGERS OF CUBAN-SPONSORED SUBVERSION TO HAITI AND THE DR. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF HAITIANS WORKING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASING COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. PRIVATE PHONE NUMBERS OF PRESIDENTS BALAGUER AND DUVALIER WERE EXCHANGED. NEUBURGER UNDERSTOOD THAT BALAGUER AND DUVALIER WERE ABOUT TO EXCHANGE GIFTS.

5. NEUBURGER SAID HE WAS RELATING THE FOREGOING TO THE US EMBASSY IN STRICT CONFIDENCE AND WAS DOING SO ONLY BECAUSE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. HE DERIVED NO PERSONAL BENEFIT BEYOND BEING HELPFUL IN FURTHERING DUVALIER'S DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE DR. THE HAITIAN AMBASSADOR IN SANTO DOMINGO WAS UNAWARE OF HIS MISSION AND THE DOMINICAN AMBASSADOR IN PORT-AU-PRINCE WAS INFORMED ABOUT IT ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO WITH THE ARRIVAL THERE OF THE THREE DOMINICAN GENERALS. (NEUBURGER COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY DUVALIER HAD NOT INVOLVED EITHER OF THE TWO AMBASSADORS IN NEUBURGER'S MISSION).

6. NEUBURGER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS ACCOUNT SEEMED STRANGE AND HE WAS VAGUE IN SOME ASPECTS. HOWEVER, HE APPEARED RATIONAL IN DISCUSSING IT AND WAS EVIDENTLY FAMILIAR WITH SALOMON SANZ AND OTHER PROMINENT FIGURES ON THE LOCAL DOMINICAN SCENE.  
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7. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY PORT-AU-PRINCE CAN PROVIDE ON STATUS OF NEUBURGER AND HIS ACCOUNT.  
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## Message Attributes

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